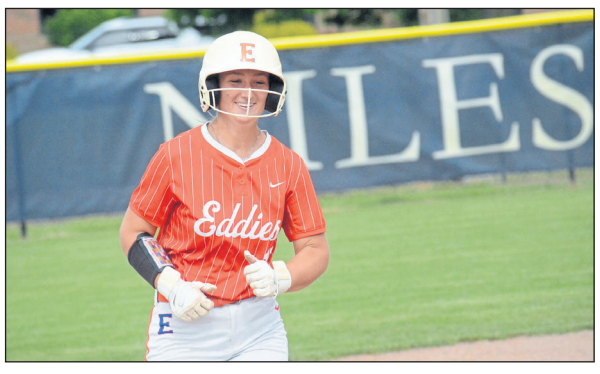

Edwardsburg blanks Niles in softball playoff opener
Page B1

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Graduation celebrations

Local schools graduate Class of 2026

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Students from three different school districts became graduates this past week.

Niles High School and its alternative education programs, Edwardsburg High School and Brandywine High School recently celebrated the Class of 2026 with graduation ceremonies.

The Niles community gave a rousing sendoff to the 189 members of the Class of 2026 at Vikings Stadium for the 164th Niles High School commencement ceremony Thursday evening.

Following the performance of Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" by the Niles High School Choir, three seniors – Josue Mercado Gonzalez, Madilyn Czarnecki and Scarlet Thalman – took to the podium as senior speakers addressing to give one last speech to their classmates, teachers and community.

Thalman congratulated her peers on a job well done.

"You have all worked so hard to get to this day and I know many of us are not in a place we thought we would be when we first stepped in the doors of freshmen. I also know many of us feel drained; we're worried about what comes next. I'm here to remind you to not give up; fight for every goal. Get back up after every hit stronger and don't stop until you become successful, until you become a champion."

NCS's adult education program, W-A-Y program and Cedar Lane Alternative Education graduated 48 students Tuesday at Michiana Christian Embassy. Shelby Benjamin was the class' student speaker and encouraged her classmates to pursue their dreams.

"The future will bring uncertainty," Benjamin said. "It will bring opportunities we cannot imagine and obstacles we cannot see. Some of us will become doctors, engineers, artists, teachers or leaders. Some of us will change directions many times before finding where

See **GRADUATION**, page A3

Photos provided

Niles High School and its alternative education programs, Edwardsburg High School and Brandywine High School recently celebrated the Class of 2026 with graduation ceremonies.

Buchanan adopts new budget with deficit

Commission eyes several projects for DDA action plan

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Paxton Media Group

BUCHANAN — Buchanan commissioners had a busy Tuesday with action taken to adopt the city's new budget, as well as holding the first of two public hearings on the downtown development authority's action plan.

City Manager Tony McGhee presented the budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year that starts July 1, saying the budget was developed with input from city commissioners and city staff.

The general fund budget is projecting a deficit after a couple of years of producing a surplus budget. General fund revenue is set at $5,155,300 while general fund expenditures are set at $5,682,257.50. The overall millage rate for general operations will be 16.2839 mills, which is slightly less than last year.

Capital expenditures in the new budget include new vote tabulators, BS&A software, firefighter equipment, police car cameras and radios, continuation of the sidewalk repair program, funds connected to Riverfront Park state grants and continued downtown infrastructure work including streetscape furniture and parking lot improvements.

The funds for local and major streets as well as water and sewer systems are also scheduled for approval. McGhee said the water and sewer funds include the proposed 8 percent annual rate hikes, which he expects to continue into the foreseeable future.

With the DDA proposal, Berrien County Community Development Director Dan Fette outlined the DDA's new action plan which he has helped city members with over the last several months. The city commission will hold a second public hearing on the DDA plan and take action on it at their June 22 meeting.

See **BUCHANAN**, page A3

Former Cass County prosecutor blasts county leaders

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — Tensions flared in downtown Cassopolis Wednesday as former Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz explained his decision to resign from office.

Fitz, who served as Cass County Prosecutor for 23 years, formally announced his new role as temporary Branch County Prosecutor and criticized Cass County leadership during a press conference at Market on Broadway for what he believes to be their role in the current staffing situation within the Prosecutor's Office.

Fitz and all five of his prosecuting attorneys have resigned in recent weeks. Circuit Court Judge Mark A. Herman appointed Attorney Sarah E. Scoggin as Interim Prosecuting Attorney for Cass County Thursday afternoon.

According to Fitz, the current staffing situation within the Prosecutor's Office is the result of inaction by the Board of Commissioners and County Administration. Fitz said that Cass County Chair Jeremiah Jones and Commissioners Sam Barrera, Roseann Marchetti and Michael Grice as well as County Administrator Jennifer Rentfrow ignored several warnings regarding the state of the prosecutor's office.

"Their departure was entirely unnecessary and could have easily been avoided had my office received a modest solution for a modest problem from the commissioners and the administrator. Instead, they have a vacant prosecutor's office," Fitz said. "It could have been solved with a few thousand dollars, and it is an absolute warning bell to the citizens of Cass County. The decision by the commissioners and the administrator not to offer a solution has placed the citizens of Cass County in peril.

Fitz stated that the breaking point was the April 9 Board of Commissioners meeting where the county prosecutor's office expressed frustration regarding the commission's removal of a proposed step-level increase retention policy from the March 19 meeting agenda.

"At that meeting, and other meetings after that, the commissioners, the administrator and communications before and after the meeting were repeatedly warned that if they did not find a solution, attorneys were planning to leave," Fitz said. "I implored the chair, the other commissioners, and the administrator to provide a solution. I implored them to meet. But other than Commissioners Al Northrop, Jim Lawrence and Tom Langley, no subsequent meetings were held and no solutions were offered. I heard only crickets from the commissioners, whose primary job is to make sure that we have public safety, yet they were unwilling to meet with the chief law enforcement officer in the county to discuss this matter and find a solution.

"Even at the commissioners' meetings, when I brought out the dire potential of attorneys leaving, it was met with silence or dismissiveness by the commissioners, including Commissioner Barrera, who indicated that I needed to stop

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Betty Dean Skalla
James M. Seedorf
Tina Darlene Glover

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FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ Thank you City of Niles for another great parade.

■ Congratulations to every Class of 2026. I don't know what you'll do, or where you'll go, but all I know is that you'll no doubt impress me along the way.

■ And the man who intentionally hit my sister with his pick-up truck walks free thanks to Cass County courts.

■ Beach Bash returns to Cassopolis next weekend.

■ How sad to have the Dowagiac graduation ceremony interrupted with fighting. You can do better.

■ Help beautify our neighborhoods by planting a few flowers. It sends a positive, warm message to the neighbors.

■ Keep your high school kids working hard this summer. It helps them earn money and stay out of trouble.

■ Niles has an All-American and a national champion. Great job Ayden McCarey and the Grand Valley State men's track team.

■ Can someone explain why we are offering to give Cuba $100 million?

■ Best wishes to our amazing Dowagiac teachers who are retiring. Kudos to all of you.

■ So much for America first. More like America last.

WEATHER

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. East wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

Monday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 79.

Memorial Day parades march through southwest Michigan

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

People lined the streets Monday to show their respect and appreciation to all the service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Memorial Day parades were held in Niles, Dowagiac, Buchanan, Edwardsburg and Cassopolis.

The parades featured floats and guests including high school bands, scholarship pageants, first responders and more.

IN BRIEF

Man killed in Silver Creek Township hit-and-run

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP — A 24-year-old man was killed Sunday in an alleged hit-and-run in Silver Creek Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 9:49 a.m., deputies responded to a fatal hit and run on M-152 and Pleasant Street in Silver Creek Township. The investigation showed that 24-year-old Timothy Johnson, of Benton Harbor, was walking on M-152, when an unknown vehicle struck his body. Johnson was pronounced deceased on scene from his injuries.

Assisting agencies were SMCAS Ambulance, Sister Lakes Fire Department. The incident remains under investigation. Anyone with information may call in on the tipline (800) 462-9328 or go to www.casscountymi.org.

Niles woman injured in two-vehicle Ontwa Township crash

ONTWA TOWNSHIP — A Niles woman was hospitalized early Tuesday morning following a two-vehicle crash in Ontwa Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office assisted Ontwa Township Edwardsburg Police Department with a personal injury crash that occurred at approximately 12:15 a.m. Tuesday. The traffic crash occurred at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Eagle Lake Road in Ontwa Township.

The investigation indicates that 50-year-old Cynthia Basil, of Granger Ind., was south bound on Eagle Lake Road and entered the intersection to cross U.S. 12 without yielding the right of way to a westbound vehicle driven by 38-year-old Cassandra Gabriel, of Niles. Gabriel was unable to avoid colliding into the side of Basil's vehicle. Gabriel was transported to St. Joseph Medical Center by Edwardsburg Ambulance Service to be treated for possible injuries that were as a result of the traffic crash.

It appears that Alcohol may be a factor in the accident.

The sheriff's office was assisted by the Ontwa/Edwardsburg Police Department, Edwardsburg Fire Department and Edwardsburg Ambulance Service. The crash remains under investigation at this time.

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NILES

Cass Family Clinic appoints new provider

By PMG STAFF

NILES — Cass Family Clinic has appointed Dr. Brittany Nault as a family nurse practitioner at its Niles location, expanding access to primary care services for patients and families across the region.

NAULT

Nault said she was drawn to a career in healthcare as a child after her grandfather became ill and eventually passed away after a short stay in the ICU.

"The compassion he and my family received during this hospitalization sparked my desire to become a nurse and help people through some of their most difficult times," she said. "I went on to pursue my nurse practitioner license as I have a passion for building relationships with patients and working together to achieve their health goals."

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Michigan State University, Nault spent four years working as a registered nurse on an inpatient oncology unit and as a chemotherapy/immunotherapy-certified nurse. In 2025, she earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Walden University. She joined Cass Family Clinic as a family nurse practitioner in February 2026 and now serves patients at the Niles clinic Tuesdays through Fridays.

"As a board-certified family nurse practitioner, my specialty is caring for patients across their lifespan," said Nault. "I find value in providing care for the whole family, cultivating relationships, and empowering individuals to improve their health. I was drawn to a career at Cass Family Clinic because I believe everyone deserves access to high quality care regardless of their background. Cass Family Clinic is an incredible asset to the community, serving as a medical home to many and working to eliminate barriers to care, I am eager to be a part of the mission here."

"We are excited to welcome Brittany Nault to our Niles team as we continue expanding access to quality, affordable health care across Southwest Michigan," said Joe Gavan, CEO of Cass Family Clinic. "Brittany brings not only strong clinical experience, but also a genuine passion for helping people through some of life's most difficult moments."

LMC earns accolade from campus democracy group for action plan

By PMG STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College has been awarded the Highly Established Action Plan Seal by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for the 2026 election cycle.

According to a news release, the seal recognizes the college's "exceptional commitment to fostering nonpartisan democratic engagement" among its students.

Led by Dr. Tiffany Bohm, department chair of social sciences, humanities and education, LMC earned a score of 31.5 out of a possible 36 points on the Strengthening American Democracy Action Planning Guide (SADG) rubric. The college joins 167 campuses across the United States that have earned this recognition for the 2026 election cycle.

The ALL IN Highly Established Action Plan Seal is awarded to colleges and universities that develop comprehensive, data-driven action plans to increase civic learning, political engagement and voter participation among college students.

Plans are evaluated across eight key areas: Executive summary, leadership, commitment, landscape, goals, strategy, reporting and evaluation.

"This recognition reflects Lake Michigan College's deep commitment to preparing our students not just for careers, but for active, informed citizenship. We are proud to stand alongside institutions across the country that believe higher education has a responsibility to strengthen our democracy," said Kris Zook, dean of arts and sciences education.

The action planning process, guided by the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition's framework, encourages institutions to build year-round civic engagement cultures that endure beyond individual election cycles. Campuses that deeply institutionalize these efforts have consistently demonstrated higher student voter turnout rates compared to less engaged institutions.

Lake Michigan College's action plan includes comprehensive, continuous, integrated, equitable and inclusive strategies. The plan addresses voter registration, voter education, voter mobilization, and long-term institutionalization of civic engagement at the college.

Action plans submitted to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge are evaluated on a four-level rubric ranging from undeveloped to established. LMC's score places it in the highest tier, the release stated.

OBITUARIES

Tina Darlene Glover

June 4, 1967 – May 4, 2026

Tina Darlene Glover, 58, of Elkhart, Indiana died peacefully May 4, 2026.

Her life began June 4, 1967, in Niles; the youngest of five children born to Alonzo and Mable Darlene Glover.

Tina was always a hard-working woman who was always on the go. She worked as a line assembly person for several companies, but her last job with Future Foam made her extremely happy. The younger co-workers could not keep up with her and looked at her as a mother figure. Tina absolutely loved all kids, addressing them as 'hon' and calling most people 'hon'. Most of all she loved her grandkids, whom she addressed as Tuggie and Moo-Moo. They lovingly called her Pampa; she was so happy to have grandchildren and wanted more. She loved clothes and everything always had to match from head to toe, including her carrying all bags.

Tina was a good woman who lived life to the fullest. A woman of many words who would express them fully when she thought necessary. She loved going out and was the life of the party in her younger days. Her favorite color was red, anything and everything red including Delicious red apples. Tina enjoyed watching drama shows, morning soap operas and the Lifetime channel. Her favorite food was fried chicken.

While listening to her favorite Al Green songs, she enjoyed playing Solitaire. Frequently she took her children to visit their grandparents, where they enjoyed food and playing games with other family members. Family was important to Tina; she enjoyed spending time with them. She was very observant and protective of her children, always wanting the best for them in every possible way. She was never afraid to speak her mind and ensure that what she was saying was heard.

Tina will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her fiancé, Terry D. Rockett Sr. of Elkhart Indiana; two daughters, Christina Glover of Cassopolis, Ashley Glover of Osceola, Indiana; one son, Darnell Glover of Highland, Indiana; two grandchildren, Aryk Jester and Issac Mckenna; three sisters, Peggy (Steven) Yelenich of Goshen, Indiana, Laura Glover of Elkhart, Indiana, Terry Glover of Cassopolis; one brother, Alonzo Jr. (Marjorie) Glover of Marinette, Wisconsin; and three future stepchildren, Terry Jr. Rockett, Tashon Rockett, and Tachika Rockett.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of her service at 12:00 noon in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Tina will be laid to rest in Calvin Township Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Betty Dean Skalla

June 11, 1933 – May 24, 2026

Betty D. Skalla, 92, of Niles, died peacefully Sunday, May 24, 2026 in the comfort of her home.

Her life began June 11, 1933 in Van Buren County Arkansas, born to Lloyd F. and Blanche Womack. She was a Michigan resident for most of her life and graduated from Buchanan High School. She married James F. Skalla on April 11, 1953. Betty served many years at the Niles-Buchanan Meals on Wheels and was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Niles. She was known for having a warm and generous heart.

Betty will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by two sons, Jay (Cece) Skalla, Thomas Skalla; one daughter Karen (Eric) Vinnedge; eight grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of nearly sixty years, her son Robert, grandsons Ben and Patrick, and one great-grandson.

Betty's Mass of Christian Burial, will take place Friday, May 29, 2026, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 219 South State Street, Niles with Fr. Christian Johnston officiating. Family and friends will gather at the church, one hour prior. She will be laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery.

Contributions in memory of Betty may be made to St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church or Meals on Wheels.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Sharron Leigh Cooney

January 23, 1941 – March 17, 2026

Born in International Falls, MN on January 23, 1941, she was the only child of Ruth Stone and Arnold Peterson (originally from Bergen, Norway).

Sharron moved to Southern Michigan with her mother in 1943, where she subsequently attended a one-room country school, a boarding school in South Bend, IN, high school in Cassopolis, MI, then freshman year at Texas Women's Univ. in Denton, TX, finishing her education at Western Michigan Univ. in Kalamazoo, MI.

After college she moved to San Diego (Pacific Beach) in 1962 and began her career as a legal secretary and later a paralegal. She married and divorced twice before going to work at the Municipal Court, where she met and married Judge Robert J. Cooney. In 1989, the Cooneys retired to their Lake Cuyamaca home. Unfortunately, and too soon, Judge Cooney died in June 1990.

Sharron then began many years of volunteer work. First, returning to the courthouse, then the Julian Chamber of Commerce, the Cuyamaca Volunteer Fire Department and the Julian Triangle Club (serving as club President for 4 years and performing in the Apple Days Melodrama for 19 years). She thoroughly loved and enjoyed life, traveling often to the British Isles, most of Europe, So. America, Hawaii, Mexico and all but two of the United States.

Her favorite holiday was Christmas and it usually took four days to decorate EVERY room in the house. Her gourmet dinners, Mardi Gras and Kentucky Derby parties will be missed by all who knew her. After losing her home in the 2003 Cedar Fire (and then rebuilding in 2005), she remained in Cuyamaca for another 10 years. She sold her home in 2015 and moved to her Baja beach house, where she often said, "Life was perfect."

Having won her battles with stage 4 cancer in 2006, breast cancer in 2018, and a third bout with cancer in 2020 (as well as struggling with diabetes for 16 years), on the advice of her doctors, she moved back to San Diego, settling at Casa Aldea in University City and later at Waterford Terrace in La Mesa.

She was extremely proud of her family and their many accomplishments: son Eric Rapp, daughters Jennifer Rapp and Elizabeth Renshaw; her granddaughters, Dr. Maisie Rapp and Dr. Savannah Morgan, all of whom survive. Her beloved grandson, Jordan Johnson, predeceased her in 2021. Her companions, Richard Rose and 12-year-old terrier, Chloe, also survive.

James M. Seedorf

February 23, 1941 – May 13, 2026

James "Mike" Michael Seedorf, 85, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Wednesday May 13, 2026 in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began February 23, 1941 in South Bend, Indiana the only child of Leonard Seedorf and Lucille DeSelm. He married Susan Kay Harmon on November 8, 1969 in South Bend, Indiana.

Mike proudly served in the United States Airforce. He was a thespian during his high school and college years; participating in musicals. In college he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He had a love for adventure; he was an avid backpacker, sailor, and enjoyed his Viking cruises. He was a past Commodore of the Diamond Lake Yacht Club and assisted with bringing the National Ski Patrol to Bendix Woods and Swiss Valley. Mike accomplished his bucket list of exploring all of the seven continents.

Mike will be greatly missed by family, friends. He is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Susan; many cousins and his faithful dog Sheba.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will observe a celebration of life at a later time.

We would like to thank Luminary Hospice for their exceptional care and wonderful compassion in taking care of Mike.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Mike be made to the organization of the donor's choice.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Obituary policy

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $25, or free with obituary purchase. Extended obituaries are priced based on word count. If there's an error because of a mistake made by the newspaper, the obituary will be reprinted at no charge. For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

GRADUATION

From page A1

we belong. That is OK. We create our own future. That is our responsibility. So as we leave this place tonight, let us not fear the future. Let us be excited by it.

"May we take risks. May we stay curious. May we continue learning."

The Edwardsburg community celebrated its seniors Thursday, May 21. The commencement featured performances from the high school band and choir as well as speeches from Salutation Hayden Hiemstra and six of Edwardsburg's seven valedictorians. Luke Kish, one of the valedictorians, asked his classmates to take things one step at a time.

"Don't worry if your goals change, you can always change your mind later anytime. But you'll never know, unless you take that first step. The possibilities are overwhelming. If we take it one step at a time, it's all of a sudden something that we can be excited about because we're not focused on the grand scheme of things, we're focused on what's good for right now. So Class of 2026, to conclude, be sure to like, comment and subscribe because it's free and you can always change your mind later."

Brandywine's ceremony, which took place May 21 at Brandywine High School, featured performances from the high school band and choir and speeches from top graduates Sydney Olson and Liam Oleson-Shackleford, who wished his 73 classmates well with their future endeavors.

"Today marks the end of our time at Brandywine Middle School/High School, but it also marks the start of our impact on the world around us," he said. "I want all of my fellow graduates to leave with the understanding that life is what you make it. I've learned first hand from people in my life that it is never too late to change what you're doing and pursue what really makes you happy in life."

BUCHANAN

From page A1

The DDA was reformed last year after a five-year hiatus. Members have been working with Fette and city staff since late last year to set their priorities for the future. The plan presented to the city commission outlines projects to be pursued over the next 15 years as well as the budget for those projects.

Fette said the DDA's goal is to halt the deterioration of property values downtown, eliminate the causes of that deterioration and to promote growth. The projects DDA members want to pursue through the use of tax increment financing funds are designed to promote economic growth in the downtown.

He told commissioners the DDA has identified five objectives for the projects they want to undertake. They include increasing tourism and foot traffic downtown, improving the downtown business climate, encouraging local job retention and growth, maintaining and enhancing public spaces and protect the downtown's historic character.

Fette said the DDA starts out with $505,000 in seed money the DDA had previously accumulated and is expected to add another $112,000 or more in revenue each year in captured tax increment financing funds through expected growth. He said the DDA expects to run a deficit each year as they use some of the $505,000 to fund the projects they want to do over the next 15 years.

He told commissioners DDA members have identified a couple of areas they want to work on in the first year or two of the plan. He said the major focus will initially be on downtown marketing, wayfinding and signage with the DDA budgeting $130,000 for those three items in the first year and at least $30,000 annually in subsequent years.

Also Tuesday, commissioners approved a fee schedule for the new vacant and underutilized building ordinance they approved earlier this month. The goal of that ordinance is to promote the return of these buildings to active use. McGhee said previously the buildings have had a negative impact on the local economy and lower property values.

He said Tuesday the goal of the fee schedule is to encourage property owners to activate their buildings or pay a fee, adding that hardship cases will be considered. Two sets of fees were approved, one for commercial/industrial buildings and one for residential buildings. Fees will increase each year for five years.

The first year fee for commercial/industrial properties will be $1,500, rising to $2,500 in the second year, $3,000 in the third year, $4,000 in the fourth year and $5,000 in the fifth and subsequent years. The first year fee for residential properties will be $500, rising to $1,500 in the second year, $2,000 in the third year, $2,500 in the fourth year and $3,000 in the fifth and subsequent years.

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Grant applications open from Heart of Cook Foundation

Applications are due by June 9

By PMG STAFF

Grant applications are now available from the Heart of Cook Foundation, with a deadline of June 9.

According to a news release, the Heart of Cook is a grant program funded by Cook Nuclear Plant, part of Indiana Michigan Power, and administered by Berrien Community Foundation to assist nonprofit programs in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana.

Environmental protection and preservation, human services and educational projects are the focus areas of this grant program. The grant review committee, comprised of Cook Nuclear Plant employees, gives special consideration to projects that involve I&M employees. Organizations must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt or equivalent status to qualify for funding.

"The Heart of Cook Grant Program has always been important in helping sustain many of our community's nonprofits, particularly during uncertain times like we've seen over the past couple of years," said Joe Callahan, member of the employee advisory committee for The Heart of Cook. "Our committee takes these applications very seriously in an effort to do the most good with what we're able to provide."

Kelly Ferneau, AEP's executive vice president and chief nuclear officer, agreed.

"Generating safe, reliable carbon-free electricity is just one of the ways we want to impact the quality of life here," she said. "Last year, the Heart of Cook granted more than $67,000 to 25 very worthy organizations who are vital to meeting the many growing needs of Southwest Michigan. To me, this kind of passionate effort led by our employees is every bit as powerful in its impact."

Grant applications and guidelines are available on Berrien Community Foundation's website, www.berriencommunity.org/HOC.

All grant applications must be submitted electronically through the Berrien Community Foundation's website. The grant application due date is June 9, with winners being notified in late July/early August and a reception to be held in September.

Agencies that have received funding for three consecutive years will not be eligible to apply during this grant cycle. If you have questions about applying, contact BCF Program Director Susan Matheny at susan@berriencommunity.org.

Man who stole Cassopolis police car gets prison time

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Correspondent

CASSOPOLIS — The man who stole a police car in Cassopolis last year while he was under arrest for a probation violation will be spending the next few years in prison after being sentenced Thursday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Andy Lee Freshour, 43, of Marcellus, pleaded guilty to 17 felony counts, nine of them as a habitual offender and eight counts for use of a weapon in the commission of a felony.

FRESHOUR

The nine habitual offender accounts were for receiving, concealing stolen firearms, unlawful driving away of an automobile, larceny of firearms, third degree fleeing police, possession of a weapon by a prohibited person, malicious destruction of police property and three counts of resisting and obstructing police.

Freshour was sentenced to three to 20 years in prison on the stolen firearms, unlawful driving away, fleeing and eluding, possession of a firearm by a prohibited person and the malicious destruction of police property charges. He received three to 15 years in prison for larceny of a firearm and the resisting police charges.

He was also sentenced to two years in prison on the felony firearm charges. The first nine sentences are concurrent with each other while the seven felony firearm sentences are consecutive to the first nine. He has credit for 360 days already served and must pay $5,136 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred May 28, 2025 in Cassopolis and nearby areas. Cass County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the Michigan Department of Corrections probation office where Freshour had tested positive for meth and arrested him.

After being placed in the police vehicle, Freshour asked the officer to check on his car at which time he crawled into the front seat and drove off with the police vehicle. The vehicle was located hours later in a swamp area outside of Cassopolis with the aid of a drone and the officer's weapon and duty bag were also recovered.

"You are 43 years old and you said you fled because you thought you were going to jail for a probation violation," Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman said. "Where do you think you're going to end up if you steal a police vehicle. Now you're not just looking at a jail sentence but prison time."

"When you steal a police vehicle and ditch it in a swamp and take his rifle and duty bag, did you think you were going to end up in Disneyland and get away with this?" the judge asked. "I always say that people are not just fleeing one police officer but other agencies. Almost zero people get away from police when they flee. It just makes zero sense."

"His actions were dangerous and impulsive," Cass County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Ken Stecker said. "He exhausted the time and resources of numerous agencies all because he didn't want to go to jail. Unfortunately for him, he's now going to prison because of his dangerous impulsive actions."

A Tennessee man and sometimes Cass County resident was sentenced to prison after a shooting spree last October on M-60 near Niles.

Michael Lynn Davis, 43, of Mumford, Tenn., pleaded guilty to discharge of a firearm from a vehicle and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and was sentenced to two years to 10 years in prison on the firearm discharge count and a consecutive two years in prison on the felony firearm count.

He has credit for 23 days served and must pay $1,766 in fines and costs and $756.89 in restitution.

The incident occurred Oct. 11, 2025 at Pine Lake Road and M-60 in Howard Township and he was later arrested five days later near a residence in Cassopolis. In addition to shooting at cars on M-60, he also was involved in a shooting incident in LaPorte County and an incident at JD's Truck Stop in Bertrand Township where he threatened someone.

Judge Herman noted that Davis was a union electrician who made $150,000 a year before this incident. "What was going through your head?" he asked. "You may not be feeling overly lucky but you could have been going to prison for life if someone had been killed. You still have time to salvage your life but if you get in trouble again, what will you have left?"

In another sentencing, Michalle Linley, 52, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine as a habitual offender and was sentenced to 36 months to 15 years in prison with credit for 94 days already served. She must pay $1,548 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Oct. 9, 2024 in Howard Township. Police observed the car she was riding in leaving a gas station and a store on M-60 at a high rate of speed. When the car was found at a nearby home, a search of the vehicle found a meth pipe, meth and meth residue.

Linley had just recently been released from parole after serving a prison sentence for tampering with an electronic device. She has been to prison three times in total before this sentence.

Judge Herman noted that she absconded and failed to appear for her original sentencing date in 2025. He said that Linley originally was scheduled to be placed on probation but that offer was rescinded when she absconded.

Dowagiac residents file class action against data center for noise

By PMG STAFF

DETROIT — Lawyers from Liddle Sheets, P.C., a nationwide class action law firm based in Detroit, announced today that they have filed a class action lawsuit against the Hyperscale Data Center in Dowagiac for creating a nuisance by emitting consistent, disruptive noise throughout the neighboring residential area.

The lawsuit is believed to be the first of its kind in the country.

Two residents filed the class action complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan alleging that about 1,300 residential properties within 1 mile of the data center, owned and operated by Alliance Cloud Services, LLC, are similarly impacted by noise from the facility. The lawsuit alleges that residents have lost their ability to use and enjoy their property and that loud noise from the data center is also causing damage to property values.

Hyperscale Data Center, 415 E. Prairie Ronde St., provides artificial intelligence and high-performance computing services, including Bitcoin mining, colocation and hosting services. The data center recently announced that it has acquired an additional 48.5 acres of land to expand its Facility's campus, doubling its current acreage.

The data center began operating in Dowagiac in early 2025 and runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. According to the complaint, the noise is not only excessive, but constant at all hours of the day, every day of the week.

"My husband and I have been unable to use our yard since this facility began operating," said one of the named plaintiffs, Lindy Valenzuela. "It is impossible to stay outside for longer than 10 minutes at a time before succumbing to headaches. The noise also penetrates the inside of our house even with the windows closed."

The lawsuit, one of several filed this week against data centers across the country for noise emissions by Laura Sheets of Liddle Sheets, P.C., represents yet another way that residents are taking action after dealing with a host of problems caused by data centers.

"These people had no say in the introduction of this large and loud data center into their otherwise peaceful community," said Laura Sheets, the lead lawyer on the case. "This community just wants to be able to enjoy their homes, and they want the data center to deal with the noise and be a better neighbor."

Vandalia woman killed in ATV crash

By PMG STAFF

VANDALIA — A Vandalia woman was killed Wednesday following an ATV accident in Vandalia, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 1:16 p.m., deputies responded to a Fatal ATV accident in a field off of Kirk Lake Road, Vandalia.

The investigation showed that 37-year-old Stacie Hershburger-Hebron, of Vandalia, was operating an ATV in a hay field when she struck a pole causing the ATV to land on its side trapping Stacie under it.

Stacie was pronounced deceased on the scene from her injuries.

Assisting agencies were SEPSA Ambulance, Newberg Ambulance, Victim Services, and Newberg Township Fire.

The incident remains under investigation.

BCYF officials set large animal registration deadline

By PMG STAFF

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The deadline for large animals to be exhibited at the 2026 Berrien County Youth Fair has been set for next week.

According to a news release, animals needing to be registered by Monday, June 1 include dairy, sheep, goats, swine, llamas/alpacas, equine and beef breeding. Registration is open to any Berrien County resident ages 5 to 20 years of age, with the exhibitor age is as of Jan. 1, 2026.

Online registration is available for all departments, except equine which require an equine entry form that needs to be returned to the fair office by Monday. Online registration has been updated to a new program this year. It will look different, but the general process is the same.

Exhibitors should create a user name and password, which will be carried over from year to year. Options for families or group entries are available. Once registered, exhibitors can return to the program and add more entries up until each entry deadline, with the exception of equine.

The exhibitor's printed confirmation will serve as the traditional yellow copy of the entry form and is required on entry day, just as the yellow copy of the traditional entry form is. The link for online entries can be found at www.bcyf.org.

Entry forms may be brought to the fair office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday prior to June 1, or postmarked by June 1 or registration forms can be placed in the drop box outside the fair office. Exhibitors are encouraged to get their registrations in early.

Animal identification rules for dairy and beef animals require an official MDARD identification tag and a registered breed tattoo accompanied by breed registration papers. Goats, sheep and swine must have an official USDA scrapie identification tag – or a registered breed tattoo accompanied by breed registration papers.

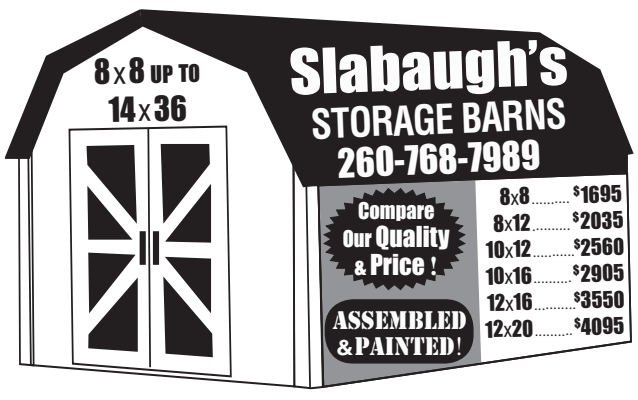
All applicable USDA scrapie, RFID and 840 tag numbers must be on the entry form when it is turned in to the fair office by the June 1 deadline, so youth need to order their tags as soon as possible. Exhibitors wishing to enter a registered goat must turn in a copy of goat registration papers with entry form.

Sheep and goat tags will be dispersed on June 3-4 during the mandatory sheep and goat tagging event at the fairgrounds. All goat and sheep ear tags must be in the animals' ear by June 4 or the entry will be disqualified. Swine tags must be in ears by July 11.

Jack Elliott, of Baroda, shows off Rockette, a 3-year-old Jersey cow, during the Grand Champion Dairy Gallon of Milk auction at the 2021 Berrien County Youth Fair in Berrien Springs.
Don Campbell / PMG file photo

There are limited numbers of exhibitor handbooks and entry forms available at the Berrien County Youth Fair, all Berrien County public libraries, Baroda City Mills in Baroda; Country Heritage Credit Union in Buchanan; Family Farm and Home in Benton Harbor; Tractor Supply Co., Rural King and Mark Farm Supply in Niles; Seifert's Farm Supply in Three Oaks and Tractor Supply Co. in Stevensville.

No late registrations will be accepted. Questions can be addressed by contacting the fair office at 269-473-4251 or entry@bcyf.org. Dates for the youth fair are Aug. 17-22 with the theme "Happy Birthday America!"



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Avoid foam on Michigan's waters this summer, health experts warn

By MAX REINHART
The Detroit News (TNS)

Michigan's numerous waterways offer plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation, but as summer draws near, state health experts warned that even touching the foam that sometimes accumulates on those waterways could lead to health problems.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement that anyone who comes in contact with the foam should rinse off as soon as possible to avoid inadvertently ingesting the "forever chemicals" that can build up in the substance.

Foam can form on lakes, rivers, streams and other surface waters and is notorious for containing high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are linked to harmful health effects.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' announcement last week came days after the Trump administration announced plans to roll back federal standards for certain PFAS, raising concerns among Michigan residents whose drinking water has been contaminated by the pollutants.

PFAS can enter public waterways when products, industrial waste or firefighting foam containing them are released into the environment and then carried by runoff, groundwater or wastewater discharge into rivers and lakes.

Levels are particularly high in the foam sometimes found atop Michigan's surface waters. The state health department said the foam can be white, off-white or brown in color. It may have an earthy or fishy scent and tends to accumulate in bays, eddies, dams and other river barriers.

State officials have long advised people to avoid swallowing foam or letting their pets swallow it for fear of contamination.

As summer approaches, the state is telling Michigan residents and visitors to rinse off or bathe as soon as possible after touching any foam.

"The risk of PFAS exposure through your skin is low. However, you can accidentally swallow PFAS, as well as bacteria, algae, viruses and other chemicals, if you do not rinse off or bathe after touching foam," Natasha Bagdasarian, Michigan's chief medical executive, said in a statement. "Rinsing off or bathing after water activities will help protect you, your family and your pets from harmful substances that may be in foam or water."

Pet owners should also be vigilant, as animals can ingest foam residue that has built up in their fur when they groom themselves. MDDHS recommends rinsing pets and bathing them with fresh water if they come in contact with foam.

Levels of PFAS above 70 parts per trillion are considered unsafe for human consumption. They are among a group of chemicals used worldwide during the past century in manufacturing, firefighting and common household items as well as other consumer products.

Michigan has nearly 400 sites with known or suspected PFAS pollution, according to a state database. Locations include military facilities, dumps and chemical manufacturers, among other sites.

The chemicals contain extremely stable bonds that resist the natural breakdown process, giving rise to their "forever chemical" moniker. They have been linked to serious health issues, including high cholesterol and liver damage. Some pose risks of cancer or reduced immune system functioning.

On May 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced plans to rescind and delay federal standards for some PFAS. The standards were challenged by the chemical industry, which sued after the rules were enacted in 2024.

In announcing the rollbacks, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the Biden administration failed to follow Safe Drinking Water Act requirements when creating the regulations.

The Republican administration's proposal was met with pushback by some lawmakers, including Michigan's U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., and U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., who fear the changes will affect cleanup projects at Camp Grayling and the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, where military activities released PFAS compounds that have moved into waterways and residents' drinking water wells.

Photos provided

Ruth McKeaney and Jean Stoffer are set to appear at the inaugural The Art of Home 2026 event Aug. 29 at The Loading Dock in Buchanan.

Inaugural event to bring home design stars to Buchanan

By PMG STAFF

BUCHANAN — A new event space will be hosting nationally recognized voices and the Michiana community for an afternoon celebrating the meaning and experience of home.

The Loading Dock, 325 E. Front St, Buchanan, is hosting The Art of Home 2026, a regional event set to take place Saturday, Aug. 29. Headlining the event are Jean Stoffer, Grand Rapids resident and host of Magnolia Network's The Established Home, and Ruth McKeaney, creator of Hungry for Home on YouTube's Homeworthy.

In a town hall–style format emceed by local TV personality Allison Hayes, the duo will share insights on home, design, hospitality and creating spaces that foster connection and meaning.

The event is sponsored by Molly Nate of The Shore Real Estate Group, a new boutique firm serving Southwest Michigan.

"Home is where life unfolds – it shapes how we live, gather, and connect," Nate said. "Supporting The Art of Home is an opportunity to be part of something that celebrates not just beautiful spaces, but meaningful living."

Dowagiac-based Wholesome Productions is producing the event. According to Wholesome

Productions CEO Patty Patano, the event aims to inspire a deeper appreciation for the role home plays in our lives and communities.

"The Art of Home is about more than design – it's about creating spaces that reflect who we are and how we live," Patano said. "This event brings that idea to life in a way that's both inspiring and deeply relevant to our community."

For more information, wholesome-productions.com.

Whitmer says she won't run for president in '28

MACKINAC ISLAND (AP) — Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan put to rest speculation about a potential 2028 presidential bid, saying Thursday that she will not join what is expected to be a crowded primary field after leaving office at the end of this year.

Whitmer has long been viewed by some Democrats as a possible White House contender after her decisive election victories in the closely contested state that Republican Donald Trump has carried twice in presidential votes. For months, however, Whitmer had offered only cautious answers about her political future.

But she delivered her clearest response yet in an interview Thursday with Fox 2 Detroit.

"I think there will be a robust group of people running for president. I will not be one of them in 2028," Whitmer said.

Her comments came during Michigan's annual Mackinac policy conference, where Whitmer is set to be honored and deliver remarks later Thursday. The news rippled through the bipartisan gathering of lawmakers, with many Democrats expressing disappointment.

"I certainly think we need more Midwestern voices. So I'm sorry to see that the governor is excluding this option," said Sen. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich.

Whitmer has previously said she plans to take time before deciding on her next move politically.

Michigan house explosion leaves 1 dead

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP (AP) — A Michigan house explosion early Tuesday left one person dead and one in critical condition, authorities said.

Authorities have not yet determined what caused the fire and explosion, which happened around 4 a.m. in Plainfield Township, north of Grand Rapids.

When authorities arrived, the home was destroyed and the debris was on fire, according to the Kent County Sheriff's Office. One person was dead.

Two neighbors pulled a woman out of the home after hearing her yelling.

"I had to get in there and get her out," one of the neighbors, Tim Johnson, told WOOD-TV. He said they "grabbed her arms and pulled her out as far as we could."

The woman was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

The blast shook Johnson's house and he had second-degree burns on his head and a hand.

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Buchanan native appointed Cass County interim prosecuting attorney

By PMG STAFF

CASS COUNTY — Circuit Court Judge Mark A. Herman has appointed Attorney Sarah E. Scoggin as Interim Prosecuting Attorney for Cass County.

Attorney Scoggin will take the oath of office administered by Judge Herman at 4 p.m. today in the Circuit Courtroom in the Law & Courts Building in Cassopolis, Michigan.

Scoggin has been a lifelong resident in southwest Michigan, spending her professional legal career practicing primarily in Cass County. She graduated from Buchanan High School and received her BA from Western Michigan University where she majored in political science with a public law concentration and a minor in criminal justice. Scoggin graduated from Michigan State University College of Law after which she was admitted to practice law in Michigan.

SCOGGIN

For 18 years, Scoggin has been an active attorney practitioner handling a wide variety of legal matters including criminal and child support giving her a solid foundation of legal knowledge as well as practical legal analytical skills. For the past 13 years, Scoggin has managed her own law office focused on serving clients in Cass County.

Scoggin's professional experience in Cass County working alongside a wide variety of community stakeholders in Cass County's problem-solving courts, her dedicated and caring representation of children in abuse neglect cases, and her office management skills poise her to effectively lead the Cass County Prosecutor's Office during this time of transition. Scoggin is well respected by the legal community because of her intelligence, fairness, and integrity.

This interim appointment will provide continuity of prosecutorial functions, court operations, and public safety to allow Judge Herman time to make a Prosecutor appointment for the balance of the prior Prosecutor's term in office. The Prosecutor position has been posted and actively advertised since May 14, and the Assistant Prosecutor positions have been posted since April 28. The County appreciates the continued collaboration between the courts, law enforcement agencies, County Administration, and other justice system partners working together to ensure continuity of operations during this transition.

Currently, the Prosecutor's Office consists of six attorney positions: the elected Prosecutor, one Chief Assistant Prosecutor, and four Assistant Prosecutors. The office also includes seven support staff positions and one operations manager position.

Leader Publications will be updated as more information becomes available.

FITZ

From page A1

my 'fear-mongering' and stop calling it a crisis," Fitz continued. "By Friday, all six attorneys in the prosecutor's office will be gone. Perhaps Commissioner Barrera will now call it a crisis."

In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, Rentfrow said that the Board of Commissioners approved multiple measures intended to support recruitment, retention, and operations within the Prosecutor's Office over the years, including retention increases, on-call stipends, additional staffing positions to help reduce workload demands, office modifications, technology improvements and a countywide classification and compensation study.

"Former Prosecutor Fitz participated in the compensation study process and supported the committee's recommendations, which resulted in compensation increases and additional personnel within the Prosecutor's Office. Despite those actions, further requests were made that the Board ultimately declined to approve. Following those decisions, the former prosecutor and assistant prosecutors resigned."

Fitz also criticized the commission's approval of a $100,000 partnership agreement with Market One, an organization that offers economic and community development in Cass and Van Buren counties.

"The commissioners have constitutional responsibilities to protect the public," he said. "They do not have constitutional responsibilities to support economic growth, yet they spend $100,000 or more on something called Market One, which is for economic growth promotion. That is not a constitutional mandate. In contrast, funding a prosecutor's office is. Just a small portion of that $100,000 would have solved my problem. Instead, the commissioners insist on spending this money on their pet project rather than making sure that the prosecutor's office has a solution."

'Stay in your lane'

In addition to the county administration and commissioners, Fitz also said that elected county officials played a role in the resignation of prosecutor's office staff. Fitz named County Clerk Monica McMichael, Treasurer Anderson, Chief Judge Carol Bealor, former sheriff Rick Behnke and Sheriff Roach as officials who he believes interfered with the prosecutor's office's attempts at securing raises and refused to "stay in their lanes."

"Time and again, in my efforts to try to do things to increase my output and explain my office situation, I received interference from other elected officials," Fitz said.

Before the press conference began, county administration staff and elected officials – including Treasurer Hope Anderson and Sheriff Clint Roach – were denied entry into the building.

"You advertise this as a press conference but it's not open to the public," asked Roach of Fitz.

"I invited specific individuals," Fitz said.

"Just the news media so you can tell your story," Roach asked.

"You can tell your story afterwards, Clint," Fitz said.

Fitz then threatened to call the Michigan State Police to remove Sheriff Roach and Undersheriff Tim Schurr.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Former Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz speaks during a press conference Wednesday in Cassopolis.

"You saw a perfect example of their inability to stay in their lane just a minute ago, wanting to insist that they can control everything, including a press conference with credentialed media individuals such as yourselves, yet they try to control the prosecutor's office," Fitz said.

Sheriff Roach released a statement Thursday afternoon in response to the altercation that took place prior to the start of the press conference.

"I along with other individuals arrived at an event we understood to be a press conference, which is generally open to the public and media," Roach stated. "Upon entering the venue, an individual at the door physically placed his hands on me and instructed me to leave. I told him to remove his hands, or he would be arrested. I was then approached by Victor Fitz, the former prosecutor of Cass County, and was told the event was private. I asked if it was a press conference and he again told me it was a private event. He told me if I did not leave, he would contact Michigan State Police.

"During this interaction, profanity was shouted by an individual outside the building. This individual is a private citizen and not an elected official of Cass County."

Roach stated that the Sheriff's Office remains focused on maintaining public safety, professionalism and stability within the community

"Residents of Cass County should be concerned when a former elected official convenes what was publicly perceived to be a press conference, while limiting access and using the platform to make accusations against current elected and appointed officials without allowing for transparency or open dialogue, so that the public can have the opportunity to listen to both sides, gather information, and draw their own conclusions as to what is occurring in our County," he stated.

What happens next

Fitz encouraged county residents to contact their commissioners regarding the prosecutor's office.

"Say, 'prioritize public safety, prioritize our prosecutor's office, take care of them,' because they certainly have not been doing that for the last several years. I gave this county perhaps the best prosecutor's office of its size in the state of Michigan – five stellar assistant prosecutors – and they squandered them. They let them slip through their fingers because of their arrogance and their indifference."

Rentfrow also encouraged community members to reach out to seek information from official county communications and public records with any questions they may have. While differing opinions are expected, Rentfrow stated that the county remains focused on facts, solutions and continuity of service rather than public conflict or political distraction.

"Recent public statements surrounding this issue have, at times, included incomplete information, personal attacks, and characterizations that do not fully reflect the broader facts or history of these discussions," Rentfrow stated. "Residents are encouraged to seek information from official county communications and public records rather than relying on emotionally charged commentary or partial narratives presented during an ongoing situation. Fairness and justice often require difficult decisions, particularly when balancing the interests of taxpayers, county employees and essential public services.

"Those principles must guide every office within local government, especially those entrusted with carrying out justice on behalf of the public."

Rentfrow added that the current condition of the Prosecutor's Office is serious and that ensuring continuity of prosecutorial services for the residents of Cass County remains the County's highest priority.

"County officials continue working closely with the courts, law enforcement agencies, and state partners to ensure essential public safety and court functions continue uninterrupted while long-term solutions are developed," she stated.

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Sports

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Niles' McCarey helps Grand Valley win NCAA DII track title

PMG STAFF

EMPORIA, Kansas — Aydan McCarey is a national champion.

The former Niles track standout and current GVSU freshman played a pivotal role in the Lakers securing the 2026 NCAA Division II Men's Outdoor Track & Field Championship.

McCarey helped the 1600 relay squad (McCarey, Demarcus Chapa, Desmond Chapa, Joshua Page) earn an eighth place finish, earning McCarey All-American honors.

The men scored 66 points over the three days, leading Pittsburg St. by five points to win the national title. The women scored 11.7 points with four podium finishes.

"Our guys competed so tough all the way through," said Coach Jerry Baltes. "To score 66 points is just outstanding."

The final individual event of the day, the men's 5,000 meter run, was what clinched the title for Grand Valley State. Koby Fraaza completed the 12.5 laps in 14:10.82, completing the final 400m in just one minute. With his sixth place finish, he contributed three points to the score to lead the competition, just two days after winning the national title in the 10,000 meter run.

"It was great to see him do that," said Baltes. "He's been a great addition to our program the last five years and this has been a long time coming."

The men's 400 relay was the first track event of the day and the first event to add points to the board. Sam Mitas, Jason Hamilton II, Sam Coyle and Joshua Page finished in 39.80 to place fifth. Their finish ranked them No. 2 in program history and added four points to the team tally.

Page added individual points to the team total, too. In the last individual event of his collegiate career, Page crossed the 400m finish line third at a season-best 45.35. The finish updated Grand Valley's program record in the event yet again, just 48 hours after he changed it for the second time.

See **TITLE**, page B2

Photo provided

Niles graduate and Grand Valley State All-American Aydan McCarey poses with the Division II National Championship trophy.

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Brandywine's Janae DeHart clears the ball during Thursday night's district final against Michigan Lutheran. The Bobcats lost 3-0 and finished the season 12-9.

Brandywine's Aubrey Burt and Layla Adams pressure Michigan Lutheran's Evangeline Liss during Thursday night's district final.

Lutheran beats Brandywine for D4 district title

PMG STAFF

BENTON HARBOR — Michigan Lutheran girls soccer defeated Brandywine 3-0 in a Division 4 girls soccer district final hosted by Our Lady of the Lake High School in Benton Harbor on Thursday evening.

The Titans move on to the regional semifinals where they will face the winner of Saturday's game between Saugatuck and Holland Black River at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, at Fennville High School.

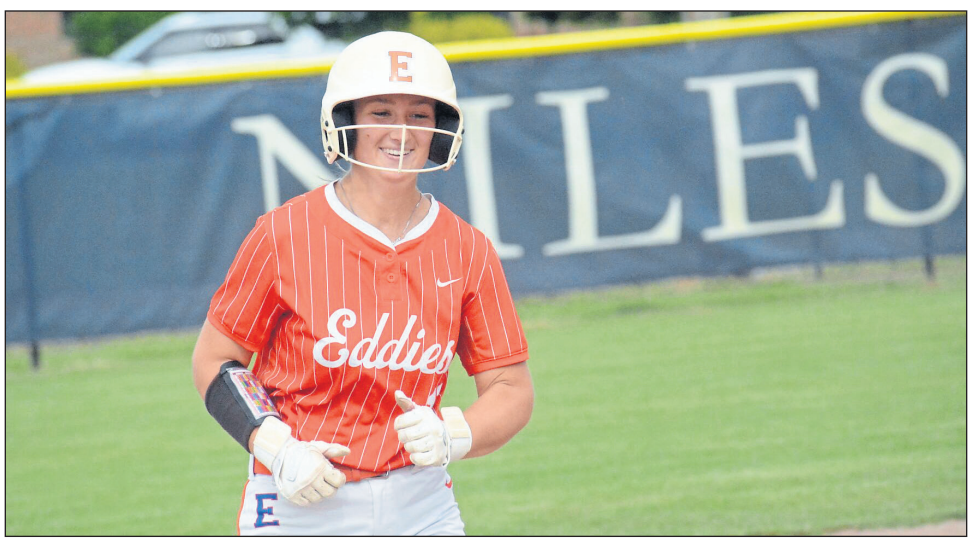
Michigan Lutheran has a record of 14-2-2. The Bobcats finished the season 12-9.

Brandywine's Layla Covington tries to work her way past Michigan Lutheran's Lili Leifer.

Michigan Lutheran's Aubrey Barnes celebrates her goal with Lili Leifer and Katie Daley during Thursday night's Divisiion 4 district final against Brandywine at the Our Lady of the Lake soccer field in Benton Township.

Michigan Lutheran's Landree Buch pushes past Brandywine's Sydney Roeder.

Michigan Lutheran's Aubrey Barnes works against Brandywine's Kelsea Brant during Thursday night's district final. The Titans will play in the Division 4 regional semifinals on Tuesday, June 2.



Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Kyla Heflin rounds the bases following her home run in Division 2 district quarterfinal play against Niles Tuesday at Niles High School.

Edwardsburg softball blanks Niles 10-0 in D2 district opener

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The Edwardsburg softball team opened Division 2 district play with a bang Tuesday at Niles High School.

The Eddies scored six runs in the fourth inning on their way to a 10-0 victory over the Vikings. Edwardsburg advances to face Three Rivers at 10 a.m. Saturday at Niles High School.

Leading 4-0 entering the fourth inning, Kendal Hulett tripled to score two runs before Olivia Jamison singled, scoring one run. Ellla Zache then scored one run via a triple before Kaya Heflin capped the scoring with a home run to right field, scoring two runs.

"We we really feed on each other's energies," said Edwardsburg head coach Alison Kozinski. "One person gets a hit and another one's coming. We fed on each other's energy and then our pitcher took care of it in the circle."

Edwardsburg pitcher Kennidie Flanery struck out seven Niles batters and surrendered two hits and zero runs over five innings. Zache drove in four runs on three hits to lead the Eddies.

See **SOFTBALL**, page B2

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Local teams earn spots in state baseball rankings

PMG STAFF

Brandywine is ranked in the top 10 of the latest Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association poll.

The Bobcats (28-5-1) are ranked No. 6 in Division 3 while Edwardsburg (28-7) and Niles (27-9) are ranked 15th and 17th in Division 3.

Here are the rankings by division:

Division 1

1. Birmingham Brother Rice (26-10-2)
2. Romeo (26-6)
3. Woodhaven (28-5-1)
4. Rochester Adams (23-8)
5. Bay City Western (27-7)
6. Detroit Catholic Central (22-11)
7. Oxford (27-7)
8. Mattawan (27-9-2)
9. Hudsonville (28-7-1)
10. Midland Dow (26-8-2)
11. Hartland (21-11)
12. Rockford (25-8)
13. Okemos (19-6-1)
14. Jenison (27-6)
15. Saline (26-11)
16. Novi (23-9)
17. Howell (21-13-1)
18. Byron Center (22-10)
19. Allen Park (21-6)
20. Dexter (26-9)

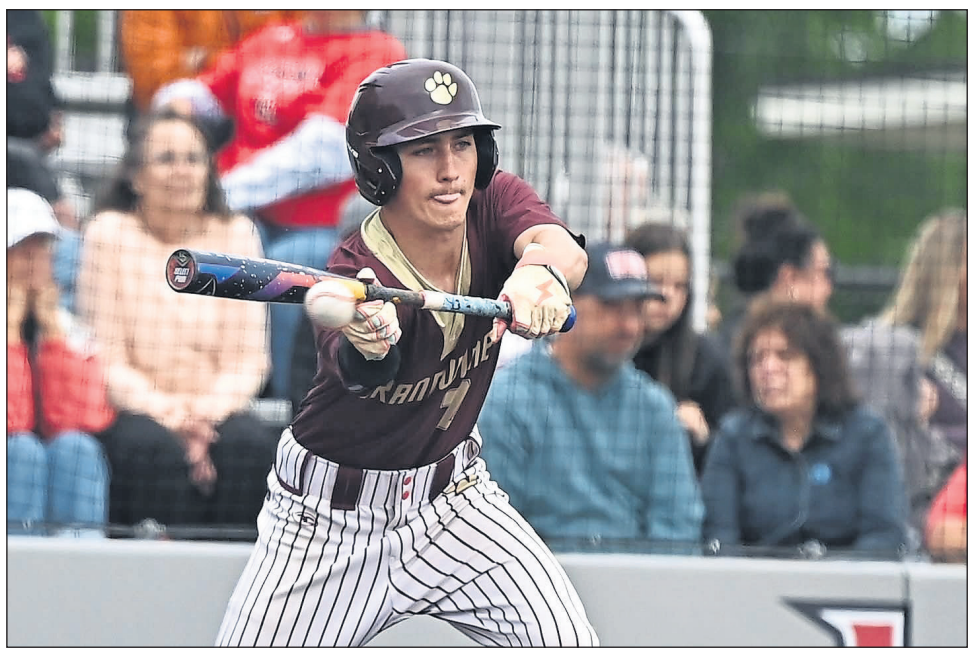

Photo courtesy of Tanya Hagen

Brandywine is ranked 6th in the Michigan Baseball Coaches Association Poll for Division 3.

Division 2

1. Orchard Lake St. Mary's (26-5)
2. New Boston Huron (29-5)
3. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (34-3)
4. Richmond (27-1)
5. Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills (29-2)
6. Standish-Sterling (29-4)
7. Dearborn Divine Child (24-5)
8. Williamston (24-6)
9. Parma Western (29-4)
10. Saginaw Swan Valley (31-6)
11. East Grand Rapids (22-8)
12. Ada Forest Hills Eastern (31-5)
13. Garden City (29-5)
14. Vicksburg (25-7)
15. **Edwardsburg (28-7)**
16. Spring Lake (24-7)
17. Freeland (28-7)
18. **Niles (27-9)**
19. Hopkins (20-8)
20. Escanaba (22-8)

Division 3

1. Traverse City St. Francis (24-4)
2. Brooklyn Columbia Central (28-3)
3. Lansing Catholic Central (23-3)
4. Detroit Edison (16-7)
5. Jackson Lumen Christi (28-8)
6. **Brandywine (28-5-1)**
7. Grosse Pointe University Liggett (21-11)
8. Grass Lake (25-8)
9. Saginaw Valley Lutheran (23-6)
10. Elkton Pigeon Bayport (27-7)
11. Whiteford (20-3)
12. Ravenna (27-5)
13. Plymouth Christian Academy (23-6)
14. Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central (20-6)
15. Reese (25-9)
16. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (22-3)
17. Watervliet (25-7)
18. Springport (25-4)
19. Harbor Springs (20-3)
20. Montague (18-5)

Division 4

1. Portland St. Patrick (25-2)
2. Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (29-4)
3. Beal City (28-7)
4. Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Central (22-7)
5. Fulton (22-6)
6. Breckenridge (23-7)
7. Fowler (17-10)
8. Petersburg-Summerfield (13-7)
9. Rogers City (23-7)
10. Harbor Springs-Harbor Light (21-7)
11. Royal Oak-Shrine (19-8)
12. Grand Rapids Sacred Heart (21-0)
13. Muskegon Catholic Central (20-4)
14. Decatur (19-8)
15. Norway (17-7)
16. Vermontville-Maple Valley (17-7)
17. Adrian-Lenawee Christian (15-6)
18. Indian River-Inland Lakes (17-10)
19. Gaylord St. Mary (23-3)
20. Ubly (20-9)

Fears Jr. returns to MSU, withdraws from NBA Draft

By CONNOR EAREGOOD
The Detroit News (TNS)

EAST LANSING — The single most important question of Michigan State's offseason has been answered: Jeremy Fears Jr. is coming back for his junior season.

Fears, 21, withdrew from the NBA Draft process before Wednesday night's NCAA deadline. The Spartans' record-setting point guard is coming back for another run as the Spartans eye a trip to the Final Four at Ford Field.

Minutes after making the decision official, with less than two hours to spare until the 11:59 p.m. ET deadline, Fears posted an Instagram story giving tribute to coach Tom Izzo.

"Took a chance on the youngin," wrote Fears, dotting the post with heart emojis. "Forever loyal."

A strong NBA Combine and workouts with two NBA teams made it a tense two weeks as Fears pondered a pro future, though his coach Tom Izzo maintained throughout the process he expected Fears back at Breslin Center. Just Wednesday morning, at the Mackinac Policy Conference, Izzo hinted at that fact when asked about his team.

"We've got most of our guards back," Izzo said. "I think we'll have all of them back."

In the end, there were no surprises – a reprieve during a chaotic day for Michigan State as an institution, which is now looking for a university president after Kevin Guskiewicz left for Clemson. Fears will be back for his fourth year in East Lansing, and his third full season as the Spartans starting point guard.

Fears should be among NCAA's top players in 2026-27

Fears comes back to Michigan State as one of the top-rated players in the country, at the very least at his position. In 2025-26, Fears led Michigan State with 15.2 points per game and led the nation with 9.4 assists per game.

On a consistent basis, Fears' crafty playmaking and cerebral understanding of his teammates' tendencies made him an All-American honoree and one of the country's top point guards as one of five finalists for the Bob Cousy Award (he is the only one who has withdrawn from the NBA Draft so far).

Analytics site KenPom ranked Fears the seventh-most impactful player in Division I according to its kPOY metric, which crowns the site's most valuable player. The six players ahead of him – Duke's Cam Boozer, Iowa State's Joshua Jefferson, Michigan's Yaxel Lendeborg, Houston's Kingston Flemings, Illinois' Keaton Wagler and BYU's AJ Dybantsa – all remain in the NBA Draft process.

Even as Fears showed clear limitations as a 3-point shooter (35-of-109) or when on-court antics – groin kicks to opponents at Minnesota and Michigan earned national headlines – distracted from his excellence, Fears still turned himself into a flat-out difference-maker for the Spartans this season. Building on his shot and defense will be clear keys going forward. His coach would probably add discipline in there, too.

"On the defensive end, I wanted to take that up a notch, and then also shooting," Fears told Big Ten Network. "I think I made a 3 a game this year which was huge coming from the previous year. So next year whether it's NBA or (college) just be more consistent."

There were many nights last season that Fears' play willed the Spartans forward. He assisted on 53.1 percent of Michigan State's baskets for the entire season. That's the most of anyone since at least the 2009-10 season, and it doesn't take into account Fears took 157 shots (17.8 percent of MSU's volume) himself.

All that, in just his second season as a starter. But it also comes in the context of personal tragedy. After being shot in the leg during a Christmas break return to his hometown of Joliet, Illinois, in 2023, Fears missed the remainder of his true freshman season and was granted a medical redshirt by the NCAA. Fears came back after a grueling summer of rehab and started all but one game for the Spartans in 2024-25, playing a major role in a 30-7 season that yielded a Big Ten championship and Elite Eight run.

Last season, though, felt like the version of Fears he was supposed to become in the long run. His systematic destruction of opponents' defenses. Perfect lobs and pinpoint passes. When he called his own number, weaving through transition and finishing floaters and layups with ease, he provided Michigan State's heartbeat. His guiding hand culminated in a 27-8 Sweet 16 run last season that also caught the eyes of pro scouts. It was all but necessary that he explore those options, though his decision to return creates plenty of intrigue for his third collegiate act.

Legacy on the line for Fears, Izzo

Fears' remarkable sophomore season reset the record books for Michigan State. Fears passed Cassius Winston for the single-season MSU assists record with 328, and he broke Magic Johnson's assists record in an NCAA Tournament game for Michigan State with 16 against Louisville in the second round. Fears came within three helpers of Mateen Cleaves' 20-assist record against Michigan when he dished 17 against Maryland on Jan. 24.

Legendary company, with more records in reach. Fears' 564 career assists are just 326 away from Winston's record of 890, which also served as the Big Ten record before Purdue's Braden Smith broke it and the NCAA marker this past season.

Fears himself is cognizant of a greater history. When his own records are brought up, he defers credit to his predecessors who won in March.

"They've been in Final Fours, championships, everything that you can imagine," Fears told The Detroit News after he broke Johnson's assists record against Louisville in the second round. "So I'm still working. I'm still trying to get better and help the team. … At the end of the day, I'm just happy to keep playing."

Daniel Mears / The Detroit News / TNS

Michigan State point guard Jeremy Fears Jr. is returning next season instead of entering the NBA Draft.

With his decision to stick around, Fears can add to his own legacy.

It also gives Izzo a chance to add to his. With Fears at the helm, Izzo keeps breaking coaching records, too. He set the Big Ten's career wins record in Fears' first season as a starter in 2024-25, though first-round pick Jase Richardson had a lot to do with that, too. Izzo's 764 career wins currently rank 20th in NCAA Division I history, and seventh most among active coaches.

The ones that mean the most to Izzo, though, will be those that could get him back to the Final Four, where Michigan State hasn't been since Cassius Winston led the way in 2019.

With Fears leading the way, and a crop of talent on this next squad including big man transfer Anton Bonke, transition nightmare Coen Carr and a top-five recruiting class including shooting guard Jasiah Jervis, this next squad could have the talent to get there.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Niles freshman pitcher Jalaila Reed throws during Tuesday's Division 2 district opener against Edwardsburg at Niles High School.

SOFTBALL

From page B1

"[Ella] has been big this year because she has changed positions," Kozinski said. "Last year she played at third and this year she had to step into the catcher's role. She's really stepped up being a leader this year."

Kosinski hopes her team can ride the momentum from Tuesday's game into Saturday.

"It's huge," she said. "We got two big games on Saturday, so it's huge for us to have a little bit of confidence at the plate and some momentum on defense, so I'm glad we got a good win today."

Niles freshman starting pitcher Jalaila Reed struck out one batter and allowed 10 hits and 10 runs over three innings with two walks. Austyn Rohacs and Madi Kessler tallied one hit for the Vikings.

"We have a very young team," said first-year coach Jenna Podjan. "We're changing the culture. That's a good Edwardsburg team over there. Our district's got some good teams like that in it, we came out with great energy, but again, fell short. "We continue to grow and get better each and every week each and every day, each and every month. But obviously not the outcome we wanted."

While the end result is not what she wanted, Podjan believes the future of the Vikings program is bright.

"They have come a long way, and I'm extremely proud of our pitching staff," she said. "I'm proud of all of them in a lot of different ways. [McKenna Albright] was a great leader, a great mentor to the younger kids on the team. We're young, we've got lots of freshmen, lots of sophomores, a couple of juniors and then we graduate two seniors.Iit was a roller coaster of a season. We had a lot of ups and a lot of downs. We just have to get better and that's the name of the game. We got to work harder in the off season, we gotta show up every day."

Podjan, a former softball standout at both Dowagiac and Western Michigan, enjoyed her first year coaching high school softball.

"I didn't know what to expect from coaching at this level for the first time, and I can't believe how fast it goes and how much fun it was," she said. "I love our coaching staff. My coaching staff is awesome. We love the game, we love sports, we love athletics in general. Managing a lot of things, putting together new programs and putting together policies took a lot of time in the offseason and the beginning of the season, so I look forward to next year now that I've done this once and we've done this once. We kind of know how it flows and how to do the little things, and the things that we already have in place, we'll just continue to get better.

"But it was an absolute joy. I loved it. We're excited for next year. I'm excited to start getting better tomorrow."

TITLE

From page B1

GVSU impressed in men's pole vault, adding a total of seven points from two athletes. Freshman Sam Paeth highlighted the event, exceeding his personal-best by several inches. On his second attempt, Paeth cleared 5.36m (17-7) to establish a new PR and rank No. 2 in program history. At the end of competition, he ranked fifth.

Dolan Gonzales was just behind his teammate. It took just three attempts for the junior to place sixth, clearing the three heights on his first attempt. His 5.26m (17-3) bar earned him his fourth All-America honor. Camryn Battjes placed 12th to earn Second-Team All-America honors with a 5.01m (16-5.25) bar.

Joshua Hurt, who qualified for the 110m hurdles finals with a second place finish in heat two of yesterday's prelims, earned his first All-America honor today. The sophomore crossed the finish line eighth at 14.10 to add two points to the team score from a technicality.

"We came out here and battled today," said Baltes. "It was truly a team effort."

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-0354-DE-J

Court address:
811 Port Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085
Court phone no.
269-983-7111

Estate of Barbara Ann Powers, deceased
Date of birth: 08/17/1934

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Barbara Ann Powers, died 02/27/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lynn M. Powers personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 05/20/2026

Attorney: John R. Colip
Bar no. P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

Lynn M. Powers
Personal representative(s)
16393 Wells Road
Buchanan, MI 49107
269-362-0883

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice **Just Simple Storage - Menominee located at N710 County Rd 577, Menominee, MI, 49858** intends to hold an Auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur as an **Online auction via www.bid13.com on 6/18/2026 at 12:00 PM.** Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Vincent Driscoll. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. 7528-346374

Scarlett Towing is having an abandoned vehicle auction. Auction date 6/12/26 @ 8:00 am Vehicle up for auction

2011 Ford F150 Vin: 1FTFW1EF9BFA19030

2016 Chevy Equinox
Vin:2GNALCEK9G6296832

Vehicles unknown running condition and miles and no keys
Location: 7979 Deans Hill Rd, Berrien Center

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CASS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO.
2026-105-DE

Estate of:
Ronald C. Grzeskiewicz
Date of birth: 08/28/1945

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Ronald C. Grzeskiewicz, died 03/21/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Malcolm J. Tuesley, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62 Ste 10, Cassopolis, MI 49031, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 05/13/2026

Attorney Name:
Malcolm J. Tuesley, P24791
THK Law, LLP,
212 E. LaSalle Ave., Ste 100
South Bend, IN 46617
574-232-3538

Personal Representative:
Malcolm J. Tuesley
21550 Shore Acres Rd
Cassopolis, MI 49031

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

RE: ESTATE OF STEPHEN D. SAYER, DECEASED
CASS COUNTY, MI PROBATE
FILE # 2026-117-DE
HON. CAROL MONTAVON BEALOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Decedent, Stephen D. Sayer, died March 23, 2026, a resident of Howard Township, Cass County, Michigan. He resided at 2575 Huntly Road, Niles, MI 49120. Creditors of STEPHEN D. SAYER, Deceased and the above estate are notified that all claims against STEPHEN D. SAYER, individually and the above Estate will be forever barred unless presented to the Cass County Probate Court, 60296 M-62 Suite 10, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and Tricia M. Wolfinger, Personal Representative and to Attorney James J. Mollison, whose respective addresses are listed below, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 05/30/2026

Tricia M. Wolfinger
Personal Representative
2537 Yankee Street
Niles, MI 49120
C 574-339-6367

James J. Mollison [P17884]
Attorney for the Estate
4 South Lincoln Avenue
Niles, MI 49120
269-684-7600
C 269-930-4170

Auction
Where: Automotive Plus 2411 S. 11th St. Niles MI 49120
Phone Number: 269-684-4700
Date of Auction: June 4, 2026
Time of Auction: 9 am

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2013 Ford F350 VIN 1FT8W3BT4DEB11265

STATE OF MICHIGAN
43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASS COUNTY
2026

PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF FRIEND OF THE COURT ANNUAL STATUTORY REVIEW

PUBLIC NOTICE
ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE RECORD OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT

Pursuant to Michigan law, the chief circuit judge annually reviews the performance record of the friend of the court. The review will be conducted on or about July 1,2026.

This review is limited by law to the following criteria: whether the friend of the court is guilty of misconduct, neglect of statutory duty, or failure to carry out the written orders of the court relative to a statutory duty; whether the purposes of the Friend of the Court Act are being met; and whether the duties of the friend of the court are being carried out in a manner that reflects the needs of the community. Members of the public may submit written comments to the chief judge relating to these criteria. Send your written comments, with your name and address, to Hon Carol M. Bealor at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031.

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Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Board of Education of the Buchanan Community Schools will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.9342 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2026.

The hearing will be held on Monday June 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., at the Buchanan High School library, 401 West Chicago St., Buchanan, MI 49107.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 5.47% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved the operating revenue will increase by 1.68% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
Buchanan Community Schools
401 W. Chicago St.
Buchanan, MI 49107
(269) 695-8401

The Board of Education of the Buchanan Community Schools will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.9342 mills in operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2026. Please note, however, that Buchanan Community Schools levied 18 mills for its operating millage in 2025, and proposes to levy 17.8390 mills in 2026, including a Headlee rollback of 0.1610 mill.

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by MALINDA L. SPEICHER, a single woman, residing at 368 East Main Street, Marcellus, MI 49067 to OAK MORTGAGE, LLC. (n/k/a STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY), 125 E. Chicago Road, Sturgis, Michigan 49091 dated August 6, 2021, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on August 18, 2021, in Liber 1201 of Mortgages, on page 1648. There is claimed to be due on the date of this notice, for principal and interest the sum of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand, Twelve and 43/100 Dollars due on the mortgage and no proceedings having been instituted to recover the debt now remaining secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof, where by the power of sale contained in said Mortgage has become operative;

Now Therefore, Notice is Given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgages and under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, the said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises therein described or so much thereof as may be necessary, at a public auction sale, to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, at the West outer door of the Courthouse in the City of Cassopolis and County of Cass, Michigan, that being the place of holding Circuit Court in and for said County, on June 17, 2026, at promptly 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day; which said mortgage premises are described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 3, Block 1 South, Range 3 East, Village of Marcellus, according to the recorded plat in Liber 41 of Plats, Page 138, Cass County Records.

Property Address: 368 East Main Street, Marcellus, MI 49067
PIN: 14-051-551-003-00

Said premises will be sold to pay the amount as aforesaid then due on said Mortgage together with 2.875% percent interest on the Mortgage, legal costs, attorneys' fees and also any taxes and insurance that said Mortgagee does pay on or prior to the date of said sale. The amount due on said Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the last day to redeem the Sheriff's Deed will be December 17, 2026, however, if an Affidavit of Abandonment is filed with the Register of Deeds, the last day to redeem will be July 17, 2026, or until the time to provide the notice was required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later.

If said property is in fact sold at the above-described foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the above listed Mortgagor will be responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY for damaging the property during the redemption period.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice.

ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: May 23, 2026,

STURGIS BANK & TRUST
Mortgagee.

HaasCaywood PC
By: P. Joseph Haas, Jr.
Attorney for Sturgis Bank & Trust
Business Address: 112 South Monroe Street
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-3281

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m., on June 24, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by DEVON RICHARDS and PAOLA LIZARDI RICHARDS, husband and wife, as Mortgagor(s), to United Federal Credit Union, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated April 17, 2023 and was recorded April 24, 2023 at Liber 1231, Page 1567 of Cass County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND NINETY AND 67/100 ($152,090.67) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a variable rate which is currently 7.25% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the Township of Mason, County of Cass, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: Part of the East half of the Northwest fractional quarter of Section 24, Town 8 South, Range 14 West, Mason Township, Cass County, Michigan, described as: From the North quarter of said Section 24, measure West, along the North line of said Section, 100.00; thence measure South 0 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 380.00 feet; thence measure West, 560.00 feet; thence measure South 0 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 1694.97 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 0 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 300.00 feet to the Indiana-Michigan State Line; thence South 89 degrees 36 minutes 05 seconds West, along said State Line, 247.95 feet; thence North 0 degrees 34 minutes 34 seconds West, 300.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 36 minutes 05 seconds East, 248.12 feet to the point of beginning; Address: 16780 State Line Rd., Union, MI 49130; Tax Parcel No.: 14-060-024-374-47; together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: May 23, 2026 ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 317 Center Street, South Haven, MI 49090; 269-287-2010 (05-23)(06-13)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Aliyah Baldwin Original Mortgagee: Contour Mortgage Corporation Date of mortgage: May 10, 2024 Recorded on May 16, 2024, Liber 1245, on Page 2496, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty Thousand Twenty-Two and 34/100 Dollars ($140,022.34) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lots 59 and 60 in Lyle Addition to the City of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of plats, Page 58, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 106 Clyborn St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1593468 (05-16)(06-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Cassandra Miller and Jeffrey Starr Jr Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.("MERS"),solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 5, 2023 Recorded on December 11, 2023, Liber 1240, on Page 1243, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Five and 86/100 Dollars ($120,585.86) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 142 in McOmber`s Third Addition to the Village (now City) of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber W of Deeds, Page 330, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 421 W Railroad St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1593464 (05-16)(06-06)

PENN TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION – 1 YEAR DATA CENTER MORATORIUM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at a Special Meeting of the Township Board held at 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2026, Penn Township adopted a One-Year Data Center Moratorium entitled "An Ordinance to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing regulations relating to a temporary moratorium on considering applications for Data Centers and all related infrastructure facilities and accessory buildings and uses within Penn Township while the Township completes a study of the ordinances and regulations pertaining thereto and considers possible subsequent revisions to current ordinances pertaining thereto; to provide for severability; to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; and to provide an effective date."

Section I, Findings, contains detailed written findings of fact by the Township Board in support of the ordinance passage, including but not limited to that data centers may result in negative impacts on permitted land uses and may harm the public health, safety, and welfare of the public; that significant comments have been received by the Township Board on concerns about data centers; and that zoning and general law regulations need to be reviewed and updated to ensure that no interference or harm will come to other land uses or impact the environment and public health. Section II, Moratorium and Term, adopts a temporary one-year moratorium on the Township's acceptance and/or processing of any applications for data centers and related infrastructure facilities and accessory buildings and uses. Section III, Extension by Resolution, states that the Township Board may extend the temporary moratorium by resolution to allow time for sufficient ordinance review and amendment. Section IV, Severability, provides that if any word or clause of the ordinance is declared void or unenforceable, it shall not affect the remainder of the ordinance terms; Section V, Repeal, repeals any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this ordinance. Section VI, Emergency Ordinance/Effective date states that this ordinance will become effective on the date of publication.

A true copy of this ordinance may be found on the Township's website at https://www.penntwpmi.org or by contacting the Township Clerk, Rhonda Barnett, at 269-816-5165.

Date: May 30, 2026, Rhonda Barnett, Township Clerk

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 1, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Carmen Peake and Eugene Peake, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC
Date of Mortgage: February 18, 2000
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 29, 2000
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $48,877.55
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point on the Westerly line of Lot 12, which is South 33 degrees 26 minutes East, 132.0 feet from the most Westerly corner of Lot 12, Villa of Andersonville, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 42 of Deeds, Page 356, Cass County Records; thence South 65 degrees 29 minutes 30 seconds West, 152.74 feet, more or less, to the East line of Highway M-60, thence North 4 degrees East along the East line of Highway M-60, 80.77 feet; thence North 71 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds East, 105.54 feet, more or less, to the Westerly line of said Lot 12; thence South 33 degrees 26 minutes East, 60.0 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 105 Hilltop Ln, Cassopolis, MI 49031-1234
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 9, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1592730 (05-09)(05-30)

On Saturday, May 23, 2026, around 1130am, Cass County Central Dispatch was alerted by a resident that sewer was leaking out of a manhole near the intersection of Jefferson and Disbrow in Cassopolis. Cass County Central Dispatch notified Cassopolis Department of Public Works who responded by pumping the sewer out of the manhole and hauling it to a downstream location. Private pump trucks were called in to help pump and haul the sewer. A private company that is working on a major underground infrastructure improvement project for Cassopolis was bypassing newly installed manholes that were still curing when their bypass pump stopped working. Pumping and hauling continued until the contracted company got a different bypass pump installed. During that time, an estimated amount of about 5000 gallons leaked on to the ground and impacted Stone Lake. Quick responses by all parties involved minimized the impact of the sewer.

Benjamin H. Anderson, DPW Superintendent
Village of Cassopolis, Office: 269-445-8648

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on June 3, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Patrick J. Brodzinski, a single man, as Mortgagor to First Federal Savings Bank, with its address at 301 East Ninth Street, Rochester, IN, 46975-0527 as Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded February 24, 2009, Liber 989, Page 2381, Cass County Records, Cass County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $48,105.42 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the fixed rate of 5% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in Milton Township, County of Cass, State of Michigan, described as: LOT 5, DUNNING ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN LIBER 1G of PLATS, PAGE 333. Parcel No. 14-070-300-005-00 Commonly known address: 29154 US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(12), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. April 23, 2026 First Federal Savings Bank PLUNKETT COONEY Lisa A. Hall (P70200) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4615 (05-02)(05-30)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on July 1, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Mark Lewandowski, a Single Man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns Date of mortgage: September 30, 2024 Recorded on October 7, 2024, Book # 1251 on Page # 1850. Foreclosing Assignee: Rocket Mortgage, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen and 21/100 ($247,418.21) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Milton, Cass County and described as: LOT NUMBERED 6 IN FRANTZ ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1-H OF PLATS, PAGE 385, CASS COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 33546 Frantz Dr, Niles, MI 49120 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Please be advised that the trustee will require any entity or trust bidder at this trustee's sale to provide beneficial ownership information, documentation, and written certification as required under FinCEN's Anti-Money Laundering Regulations for Residential Real Estate Transfers, effective for transfers to covered transferees closing on or after March 1, 2026. This requirement applies where the purchaser is a legal entity (including an LLC, corporation, or partnership) or a trust, and the transfer is not financed by an institutional lender subject to existing anti-money laundering requirements. The required information and certification must be provided to the trustee prior to issuance of the trustee's deed upon sale. No trustee's deed will be issued for a covered transfer until all required FinCEN information has been received and certified. Additional information regarding these regulations and required transferee disclosures can be found at: https://www.fincen.gov/rre and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 26-002868 (05-30)(06-20)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Amanda J. Martin, a married woman, to Greenpoint Credit Corp., Mortgagee, dated May 5, 1999 and recorded May 12, 1999 in Liber 700, Page 79 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 25, 2021, in Liber 1206, Page 514, and Affidavit of Scrivener's Error recorded on September 22, 2020, in Liber 1180, Page 1804, Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of the NRZ Pass-Through Trust XI, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirteen and 0/100 Dollars ($91,913.00).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Jefferson, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
That part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 7 South, Range 15 West, Jefferson Township, Cass County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the South line of said Section 17 a distance of 250.00 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 17; thence North 360.00 feet; thence East 250.00 feet; thence South 360.00 feet to the South line of said Section 17; thence West on said South line 250.00 feet to the point of beginning.
26890 Jefferson Center Rd, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: May 16, 2026
File No. 26-003877
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (05-16)(06-06)

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 8:00 o'clock a.m., in Room 2112 of the David C. Briegel Building, Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, Michigan, the Board of Trustees of Southwestern Michigan College, as required by Section 16 of Act 2 of the Public Acts of 1968, as amended, will hold a public hearing to consider the College's proposed 2026-2027 budget. The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for the public inspection during normal business hours in the Business Office, Southwestern Michigan College, David C. Briegel Building, Dowagiac, Michigan. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of the hearing.**
This notice is given on behalf of the Board of Trustees.
/s/ Klint Pleasant, President.

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on June 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Chadwick G. Johnson and Katherine R. Johnson, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: August 8, 2017 Recorded on August 9, 2017, Liber 1127, on Page 50, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on November 04, 2024 in Liber 1252, on Page 1960 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Three Hundred Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Nine and 99/100 Dollars ($307,909.99) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot Numbered 10 in Chicago Trail Farms according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1-L of Plats, page 581- Cass County Records. Commonly known as 69265 Sundance Dr, Edwardsburg, MI 49112 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1592780(05-09)(05-30)

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION – 1 YEAR DATA CENTER & BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM MORATORIUM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at a Regular Meeting of the Township Board held at 6:30 p.m. on May 21, 2026, Jefferson Township adopted a One-Year Data Center & Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS") Moratorium entitled "An Ordinance to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing regulations relating to a temporary moratorium on considering applications for Data Centers, Battery Energy Storage Systems ("BESS"), all related infrastructure facilities, and accessory buildings and uses within Jefferson Township, while the Township completes a study of the ordinances and regulations pertaining thereto and considers possible subsequent revisions to current ordinances pertaining thereto; to provide for severability; to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; and to provide an effective date."

Section I, Findings, contains detailed written findings of fact by the Township Board in support of the ordinance passage, including but not limited to that data centers & BESS may result in negative impacts on permitted land uses and may harm the public health, safety, and welfare of the public; that significant comments have been received by the Township Board on concerns about data centers & BESS; and that zoning and general law regulations need to be reviewed and updated to ensure that no interference or harm will come to other land uses or impact the environment and public health. Section II, Moratorium and Term, adopts a temporary one-year moratorium on the Township's acceptance and/or processing of any applications for data center, BESS, and related infrastructure facilities and accessory buildings and uses. Section III, Extension by Resolution, states that the Township Board may extend the temporary moratorium by resolution to allow time for sufficient ordinance review and amendment. Section IV, Severability, provides that if any word or clause of the ordinance is declared void or unenforceable, it shall not affect the remainder of the ordinance terms; Section V, Repeal, repeals any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this ordinance. Section VI, Emergency Ordinance/Effective date states that this ordinance will become effective on the date of publication.

A true copy of this ordinance may be found on the Township's website at https://www.jeffersontownshiponline.org or by contacting the Township Clerk, Valerie Locke, at 269-445-3941.

Date: May 21, 2026, Valerie Locke, Township Clerk

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on 6/10/2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Adam Charles Roach. Original mortgagee: 1st Source Bank. Date of mortgage: 9/23/2013. Mortgage recorded on 9/27/2013 as Document No. 91938, in Liber 1067, Page 67. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): 1st Source Bank. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $49,619.65 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN AND DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 12 RODS NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWN 5 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, THENCE NORTH 29 RODS; THENCE WEST 13 1/3 RODS, THENCE SOUTH 29 RODS, THENCE EAST 13 1/3 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 53435 Indian Lake Rd, Dowagiac, MI 49047. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 05/09/2026. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-26-00265 (05-09)(05-30)

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Campbell is latest example of a key player Lions have drafted, developed and re-signed

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions aim to draft, develop and re-sign players and linebacker Jack Campbell is the latest example.

Campbell signed an $81 million, four-year extension last week that puts him under contract through the 2030 season.

Despite the new deal, Campbell walked into his news conference still sweating from a workout and wearing a black sleeveless shirt, shorts and socks while holding high-top cleats and a bottle of water.

"It's just really surreal," Campbell said Wednesday. "I can't thank enough people."

Campbell also is grateful that someone from back home in Iowa sent him an article that gave the Lions a failing grade for drafting him and running back Jahmyr Gibbs in the first round in 2023, adding that the former Hawkeye star was the team's least-favorite pick three years ago.

"It wasn't about proving them wrong," Campbell said. "It was about proving the people who believed in me right."

Detroit drafted Campbell No. 18 overall in 2023 and he has been a key player on defense, starting in each of his first three years and earning All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors last season.

Campbell became the first NFL player in seven years to have 150-plus tackles and at least five sacks and three forced fumbles during the 2025 season.

In his opening remarks, he thanked a long list of people, including Dan Campbell and the coaching staff.

"They've pushed and molded me into a player," Campbell said.

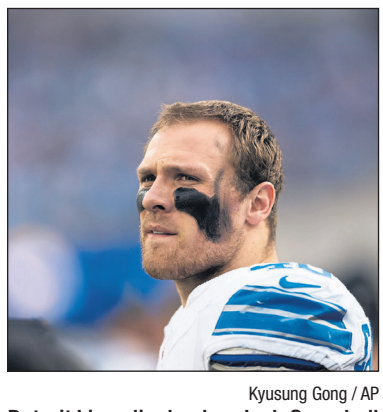
Lions general manager Brad Holmes has helped to turn the franchise around since he was hired in 2021 with a series of sound draft picks and other roster moves.

Holmes has extended the contracts of some players in recent years, including defensive end Aidan Hutchinson, quarterback Jared Goff, receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown, offensive tackle Penei Sewell and safety Kerby Joseph.

And now, Campbell.

"I feel very appreciative that they believe in me and want me to be part of the core," Campbell said. "It only makes me more motivated because I know I will be part of something special."

The Lions are coming off a 9-8 season that fell short of the playoffs and expectations after winning the NFC North twice and reaching the conference championship game once during Campbell's first two seasons.



Kyusung Gong / AP

Detroit Lions linebacker Jack Campbell walks on the field before an NFL game against the Los Angeles Rams, on Dec. 14, 2025.

Bears coach: 'Buying Luther Burden stock' going into season

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Luther Burden was hungry when he joined the Chicago Bears. A year later, not much has changed on that front.

He has somewhere he wants to go, and he is determined to reach that level.

"Just prove, you know, that I am who I say I am. ... I'm that guy," Burden said Thursday on the second day of organized team activities.

The Bears are believers, and they showed just how much they think of Burden's potential when they traded veteran receiver DJ Moore to Buffalo in March. With Moore gone, the 22-year-old Burden is expected to take on a more prominent role alongside fellow receiver Rome Odunze and second-year tight end Colston Loveland.

"Yeah, I'm buying Luther Burton stock right now," coach Ben Johnson said. "Just how he's approached his offseason, it's been electric. It showed up yesterday. He had numerous explosive plays. ... So he's in a really good spot."

Burden starred at the University of Missouri before he was selected by Chicago in the second round of last year's draft. He had 61 catches for 676 yards and six TDs in his final season with the Tigers, despite facing constant double- and triple-team coverage.

He was hampered by a hamstring injury in the run-up to his first training camp with the Bears. But he finished with 47 receptions for 652 yards and two touchdowns in 15 games during his rookie season.

"Every day he goes to work, he knows his ability, and it shows," running back D'Andre Swift said.

Nam Y. Huh / AP

Chicago Bears wide receiver Luther Burden III (10) works on the field as wide receiver Jahdae Walker (9) looks on during the NFL football team's practice on Thursday in Lake Forest, Ill.

Burden had just two receptions for 2 yards in his first two NFL games. But he broke out in a 31-14 victory over Dallas in Week 3, finishing with three catches for 101 yards and his first TD. He had a season-high eight receptions for 138 yards and a touchdown in a 42-38 loss at San Francisco on Dec. 28.

He averaged 2.69 yards per route run during the regular season, according to Pro Football Focus, ranking third in the league among wide receivers.

"When we drafted him, we saw an explosive athlete who was really dangerous with the ball in his hands. The question was, 'How can we get it in his hands?'" Johnson said. "The easy things to do are screens or short throws, but I think there's a lot more to his game that we've worked to unlock, and he's been really receptive to how we can get that done."

Burden said Moore played a big role in his development.

"Just seeing how he takes care of his body, how he prepares himself for practice, games, stuff like that," he said. "And just picking his brain. It was great."

Burden said he feels someone has to step up with Moore gone, and he prepared for his second year in the NFL by spending much of his offseason at the Bears' facility. He wanted to get bigger, stronger and faster, along with more comfortable with the playbook.

He thinks his familiarity with the system is already helping him play faster this time around.

"I feel it helps a lot because if you're thinking about what you've gotta do, you can't even focus on what the defense is in," he said. "You're trying to focus on what you've gotta do. If you already know what you've gotta do, I feel like you'll have a better plan of how to attack their defense."

Big 12 coaches agree on a 24-team playoff

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Big 12 coaches unanimously agreed Thursday on their preference for a 24-team College Football Playoff, a scenario in which the conference would have had five playoff teams last season instead of only league champion Texas Tech like it did in the current 12-team playoff format.

When the 16 coaches were informally polled about doubling the size of the playoff field during one of their sessions at the Big 12 spring meetings, all of them raised their hands.

"They should ask coaches for more opinions on what's best for college football," West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez said. "We voted and it was unanimous."

Scott Draper, the league's chief competition officer, said the coaches took part in an hour-plus presentation by the CFP staff.

"If the 24-team playoff started last year, we would have had five teams in," Draper said. "We were the second-ranked conference, strength of conference, in their metrics last year. So I'm confident that we'll be well-represented in a 24-team playoff."

Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark has expressed his support for a 24-team playoff if the economics of such an expansion make sense. Yormark is scheduled to address reporters Friday at the end the league's spring meetings.

League runner-up BYU's only two losses last season were to Texas Tech, first in the regular season and then in the Big 12 championship game. The Cougars were 12th in the final CFP rankings last year, but they and No. 11 Notre Dame were left out of the playoff because of automatic qualifiers that instead got into the field. Three other Big 12 teams were in that final poll: with Utah 15th, Arizona 17th and Houston 21st.

Texas Tech was fourth in the CFP rankings and got a first-round playoff bye before losing to Oregon in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day.

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